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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/736,275	12/15/2000	James I. Chong	P1304USA	8128

22903 7590 09/27/2007
 COOLEY GODWARD KRONISH LLP
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 WASHINGTON, DC 20001

EXAMINER

HUYNH, SON P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/27/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/736,275

Applicant(s)

CHONG ET AL.

Examiner

Son P. Huynh

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-26 and 28-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 36 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-26, 28-35 and 37-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 December 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/5/2007 has been entered.

Election/Restrictions

2. Newly amended claim 36 is directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: Amended claim 36 is directed to non-elected species illustrated in figure 5.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claim 36 is withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-26, 28-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claims 1-20 and 27 have been canceled.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: reference signs such as VCR (106), network interface (180), data server (105) are not shown in figure 1 as mentioned on page 6, lines 11-16, page 7, line 4, of the description, detection (107), sensor (108) are not shown in figure 2 as mentioned on page 6, lines 22-23; remote video workstation (30) on page 11, line 14; remote camera (104) on page 9, lines 3-4; codec subsystem (170) in figure 3 (page 8, line 15, lines 20-21), remote camera (104) (page 9, lines 3-4). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet"

Art Unit: 2623

pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 21-26, 28-35, 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim 21 recites limitation "establishing a video conference between the first workstation and the second workstation via the bidirectional communication switch in response to a second instruction produced by the data server, the video conference..." which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Instead, closest portions of the original specification describes the video workstations (120,130) include

microphones and speakers for transmitting audio communications (page 7, lines 5-6); or merely describes real time video conferencing is also possible with any other user on the network, while viewing live traffic on the same screen for consultation and discussion (page 10, lines 2-5). There is no description of "...in response to a second instruction...." as recited.

Claim 24 or claim 26 recites "sending simultaneously the data signal to the second workstation associated with a second user based at least one of a priority.... and the location of the signaling device" which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Instead, the original specification merely describes the data server (150) manages user priorities database management and camera location information (page 8, lines 9-10). There is no support for sending simultaneously the location of the signaling device with the data signal to the second workstation as recited in the claims.

Claim 31 recites the limitation "...to establish a video conference between a first workstation and the second workstation when the at least one of the control signal or the data signal is sent by the bidirectional communications switch based on the priority in response to a second instruction produced by the data server..." which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession

of the claimed invention. Instead, closest portions of the original specification describes the video workstations (120,130) include microphones and speakers for transmitting audio communications (page 7, lines 5-6); or merely describes real time video conferencing is also possible with any other user on the network, while viewing live traffic on the same screen for consultation and discussion (page 10, lines 2-5). There is no support for “...to establish a video conference between a first workstation and the second workstation when the at least one of the control signal or the data signal is sent by the bidirectional communications switch based on the priority in response to a second instruction produced by the data server...” as recited in the claim.

Claim 32 or claim 37 recites the limitation “...to send at least one of the control signal or the data signal based on a location associated with the signaling device, the location being determined at the data server” which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Instead, the original specification merely describes the data server (150) manages user priorities database management and camera location information (page 8, lines 9-10). There is no support for the limitation “configured to send...based on a location associated with the signaling device...” as recited in the claim.

Claims 21, 26 recite limitation “receiving a request fro the data signal at the data server from at least one of the first workstation or the second workstation via the bi-directional

Art Unit: 2623

communication switch" which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Instead, the original specification associated with elected Figure 3 merely describes the data server (150) connected to the central unit switch (102), codec subsystem (170) (not included in figure 3), The central unit switch (102) communicates to the remote cameras (105) through codec subsystem (170) (page 8, line 12-page 9, line 7). There is no support for the limitation "receiving a request...." as recited in the claims.

Claims 21, 26, 31 recite limitation "receiving a signal at the data server from a codec subsystem via the bidirectional communication switch...." which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Instead, the original specification associated with elected Figure 3 merely describes the data server (150) connected to the central unit switch(102), codec subsystem (170) (not included in figure 3), The central unit switch (102) communicates to the remote cameras (105) through codec subsystem (170) (page 8, line 12-page 9, line 7). There is no support for the limitation "receiving a signal at the data server from a codec subsystem via the bidirectional communication switch..." as recited in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 21-26, 28-35, 37-40 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oya et al. (US 6,208,379) in view of Hendricks et al. (US 6,675,386), DeWeese et al. (US 2005/0262542) and further in view of Huang et al. (US 6,483,846 B1).

Regarding claim 21, Oya discloses a method comprising:

receiving a data-signal at a bidirectional communication switch from a signaling device including at least one of a signaling image transmitting device or a multiview device (e.g., receiving a data signal at select device from at least one of video camera, microphone, control device, etc. – see include, but are not limited to, figures 1-3), the at least one of the signaling image transmitting device or the signaling device being in communication with a data server and with at least one of a first workstation or a second workstation (the at least one of video camera, microphone, etc. being in communication with a data server such as workstations 50,56 and with at least one of the workstations 52, 54 including display 60,62 – figures 1-3), the data server being in

Art Unit: 2623

direct communication with at least one of the first workstation or the second workstation (workstations 50, 56 being in direct communication with at least one of workstations 52 or 54 – figures 1-3), the bidirectional communications switch being managed by the data server via a multi-media interface device (e.g., select device is managed by control sent from workstations 50, 56 via interface coupled between the workstations 50, 56 and select device – see include, but are not limited to, figures 1-3), the first workstation having a software application configured to manage and distribute the data signal, the data signal being at least one of an analog signal or a digital signal (workstation 52 or 54 having a software application configured to manage the selection and distribution of data signal including video, audio data from video camera, microphone – see include, but are not limited to, figures 1-3), the receiving includes receiving over a first network (e.g., network connected between select device and video camera, microphone, etc. – figures 1-2) separate from a second network used by the bidirectional communication switch (e.g., network connected between the select device and workstations – figures 1-3), the signaling device (e.g., video camera, microphone), and the data server (workstations 50,56 – figures 1-3);

receiving a request for the data-signal at the data server from at least one of the first workstation or second workstation (e.g., workstation 52, or 54 sends to workstations 50,56 for data signal received from video camera or microphone – see include, but are not limited to, figures 1-3), the first workstation and the second workstation being interactively and interoperably coupled via the bi-directional communication switch and

Art Unit: 2623

the data server associated with a user workstations 52,54 coupled to workstations 50,56 and select device – see include, but are not limited to, figures 1-5);

producing at the data server a first instruction configured to trigger the bi-directional communications switch to send the data signal to the first workstation in response to the request, the first instruction being produced based on at least one of an indicator of a priority of the user and an indicator of a location of signaling device, the priority and the location being determined at the data server based on information stored in a database associated with the data server (e.g., priority and location being determined based on setting data including setting location, user priority, etc. stored in camera management server 68 – see include, but are not limited to, figures 1-9, col. 3, line 64-col. 4, line 45, col. 5, line 52-col. 8, line 41). Oya also discloses the data signal being at least one of a video signal or an audio signal compressed for transmission in accordance with an existing compression encoding method (col. 5, lines 1-6). However, Oya does not explicitly discloses the data signal is encoded based on a codec associated with an International Telecommunication unit (ITU) standard, the request is received via a bidirectional communications switch, an open system commercial off the shelf (COTS) compatible architecture, establishing a video conference between the first workstation and the second workstation via the bidirectional communication switch in response to a second instruction produced by the data server, the video conference having an audio component produced in real time via a microphone and a video component; and

receiving a signal at the data server from a codec subsystem via the bidirectional communications switch when at least one of the first instruction or the second instruction is produced by the data server, the codec subsystem configured to at least one of encode or decode a protocol associated with a plurality of protocols installed at the codec subsystem.

Hendricks discloses the data signal is encoded based on a codec associated with an International Telecommunication unit (ITU) standard (e.g., MPEG-1, MPEG 2, etc. – see include, but are not limited to, col. 5, lines 40-50), the request is received via a bidirectional communications switch (see include, but are not limited to, figures 3B, 9A-9B), receiving a signal at the data server from a codec subsystem via the bidirectional communications switch when at least one of the first instruction or the second instruction is produced by the data server, the codec subsystem configured to at least one of encode or decode a protocol associated with a plurality of protocols installed at the codec subsystem (e.g., see include, but are not limited to, figures 3A-3B, 9A-10, 14, 21, col. 5, lines 39-56, col. 10, lines 5-21, col. 12, line 16-col. 14, line 49). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Oya with the teaching as taught by Hendricks in order to at least improve efficiency in the transmission of information between remote locations (col. 2, lines 1-5,col. 3, lines 26-39).

Hendricks further discloses the users are able to ask other user (e.g. professor, lecturer, etc.) question and get the answers (see include, but are not limited to, col. 17,

line 45-col. 18, line 29). However, Oya in view of Hendricks does not explicitly disclose an open system commercial off the shelf (COTS) compatible architecture, establishing a video conference between the first workstation and the second workstation via the bidirectional communication switch in response to a second instruction produced by the data server, the video conference having an audio component produced in real time via a microphone and a video component.

DeWeese discloses multiple workstations (user television equipments) are connected to one another via the bidirectional communications in response to a second instruction produced by the data server, the video conference having an audio component produced in real time via a microphone and a video component (chat server at television distribution facility (figures 1a, 2a); and a video conference (video chat communications) is established between the workstations via the chat server in response to user selection to on a chat room, chat group, the video conference having real time audio via microphone and video chat (figures 1a, 2a, 9, 10, 12-16, 24; paragraphs 0015-0017, 0058, 0071, 0084, 0107-0108). Thus, the claimed feature "establishing a video conference between first workstation and a second workstation via a bidirectional communication switch in response to a second instruction produced by the data server, the video conference having an audio component produced in real time via a microphone and a video component" is interpreted as establishing a video chat communications between first user television equipment and second user television equipment via chat server in response instruction produced by chat server in response

to user selection of chat group/chat room, the video conference real time audio produced via a microphone and video chat. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Oya in view of Hendricks to use the teaching as taught by DeWeese in order to provide users with the opportunities to engage in real time chat communications with other users (paragraphs 0013-0014, 0058), or to provides user the advantages of being able to see the reactions of others users to comments made during a chat by observing their facial expression and body language, or allow participant use sign language or body language (paragraphs 0107-0108). However, Oya in view of Hendricks and DeWeese does not explicitly disclose an open system commercial off the shelf (COTS) compatible architecture.

Official Notice is taken that using device configured based on an open system COTS compatible architecture is well known in the art. For example, the system/device configured with COTS Ethernet cards and drivers for real time Ethernet, or any COTS software and/or hardware for data transmission. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Oya in view of Hendricks and DeWeese with the well-known teaching in the art in order at least to lower cost to network users.

Regarding claim 22, Oya further discloses the signaling device is a detection sensor (video camera or microphone, figures 1-3).

Regarding claim 23, Oya further discloses authorizing the user to control the signaling device via the workstation and via the data server based on the at least one the indicator of the priority of the user and indicator of the location of the signaling device (authorizing the user to control the camera via workstations 50, 52, 54, 56 based on indicator of the priority of the user (e.g. based on privilege of the user), the user access privilege and locations of the camera are stored at camera management server 68 in workstation 56 – see including, but are not limited to, figures 3,5-9, 12 –13, 16-18, col. 6, line 55-col. 7, line 3).

Regarding claim 24, Oya further discloses sending simultaneously the data signal to the second workstation associated with a second user based at least one of a priority of the second user and the location of the signaling device (e.g., sending simultaneously the data signal to the workstation 52 associated with a user of workstation 52 based on priority of the user of workstation 52 and the location of the video camera, microphone near the workstation 52 using setting in camera management workstation 56 – see include, but are not limited to, figures 1-9, col. 5, line 10-col. 6, line 67, col. 7, line 45-col. 8, line 51).

Regarding claim 25, Oya further discloses the moving-picture data and sound data is compressed for transmission in accordance with an existing compression encoding method (col. 5, lines 1-9) and decompressing the compressed image data by executing

the image compression/decompression process (col. 18, lines 1-11). Inherently, the data signal is decoded.

In addition, the limitation "decoding the data signal" is alternatively read on DeWeese's disclosure of the chat information is decoded by a digital set top box along with the television program signal (see paragraphs 0114-0115, 0123).

Regarding claim 26, the limitations that correspond to the limitations of claim 21 are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claims 21. Oya further discloses camera set on a hallway or a public place or the like (col. 9, lines 62-65). Hendricks also discloses surveillance System (see include, but are not limited to, col. 19, line 8-col. 21, line 55). However, Oya in view of Hendricks and DeWeese does not explicitly disclose camera being a highway traffic surveillance device.

Official Notice is taken that using camera/surveillance device to monitor traffic on highway is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Oya in view of Hendricks and DeWeese to use the well-known teaching in the art in order to monitor the traffic events on highway such as speeding, congestion, etc. and notify the operator/public of congestion, traffic violator, etc.

Regarding claim 28, DeWeese further discloses a signal associated with the video conference is sent simultaneously with the data signal using a full-duplex operation mode (interpreted as signal associated with the video conference/video chat is sent

Art Unit: 2623

simultaneously with data signal of television program, text, audio, etc. in bidirectional communication – see include, but is not limited to, figures 2a-3, 10, paragraphs 0011, 0015, 0056-0058, 0071-0072, 0094, 0107, 0108, 0111, 0114-0115).

Regarding claim 29, the additional limitation that correspond to the limitation of claim 23 are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 23, wherein the first user and the second user are either user of the same workstation or at different workstations 52, 54.

Regarding claim 30, Oya further discloses the user at workstation comprises system administrator and the data signal is sent to the workstation associated with a system administrator (see including, but are not limited to, col. 8, lines 33-41; col. 10, lines 45-56). Thus, first workstation is included in a primary video management center is interpreted as workstation associated with system administrator.

Regarding claims 31, 33, the limitations of the apparatus correspond to the limitations of the method as claimed in claims 21, 25 respectively, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claims 21 and 25, wherein the secured network is interpreted as network between the workstations (see include, but are not limited to, Oya, col. 1, lines 29-48).

Regarding claim 32, Oya further discloses the bidirectional communication switch (including communication software 64 and camera control server 66 at workstation 50) is configured to send at least one of the control signal (to camera/microphone) or the data signal (to image/sound communication software and camera control client/display at workstation 52,54) based on a location associated with the signaling device (e.g., location of device associated with the request sent by camera control client – see including, but are not limited to, figures 3, 5,7a, 9,12, col. 7, line 46-col. 8, line 42, col. 10, lines 40-65, col. 12, lines 24-64), the location being determined at the data server (e.g., using setting data in management workstation 56 – figure 3, col. 6, lines 1-67).

Regarding claim 34, the limitations as claimed correspond to the limitations of claims 31 and 32 and are analyzed as discussed in the rejection of claim 31 and 32.

the additional limitation “the bidirectional communications switch is configured to receive an indicator of the priority and an indicator of the location from the data server” is interpreted as select device receives privilege access and location of camera to be controlled from camera management server 68 – see including, but are not limited to, figures 1-3, 9, 12-13, col. 6, line 4-col. 7, line 3; col. 7, lines 46-67; col. 10, line 40-col. 11, line 47; col. 12, lines 24-64).

Regarding claim 35, the limitations as claimed correspond to the limitations of claims 31 and 32 and are analyzed as discussed in the rejection of claim 31, 32 and 34.

Art Unit: 2623

the additional limitation "the data server is configured as an application server associated with the bidirectional communication switch" is met by workstation 50, 56 including camera management server 68 associated with select device (see include, but are not limited to, figures 1-3, col. 6, lines 55-67).

Regarding claim 37, Oya further discloses the signaling device is a first signaling device (interpreted as camera to be controlled/designated camera– see including, but is not limited to, col. 7, lines 46-67);

the bidirectional communication switch (e.g. select device) is configured to send at least one of the control signal or the data signal based on a location associated with at least the first signaling device (location of designated camera – see including, but are not limited to, figures 1-3, 9, 12, col. 4, lines 1-41 , col. 6, lines 5-67, col. 7, lines 46-67; col. 10, lines 40-65; col. 12, line 24-col. 13, line 8);

the bidirectional communications switch (64,66) is configured to send the control signal to the first signaling device (i.e. send control signal to the designated camera), the data signal is captured by the first signaling device based on a third instruction from the data server (image/sound is captured by the designated camera based on an instruction from the workstation in response to a user selection from client workstation – see include, but are not limited to, figures 1- 5; col. 7, lines 46-67; col. 10, lines 40-65; col. 12, line 24-col. 13, line 8).

Regarding claim 38, DeWeese further discloses the video conference is a real time video conference (real time video communications – paragraphs 0011, 0015, 0058, 0107-0111).

Regarding claim 39, Oya in view of DeWeese teaches an apparatus as discussed in the rejection of claim 31. Oya further discloses the signaling device is a surveillance device (camera – figures 1-3).

Regarding claim 40, the additional limitations of the apparatus correspond to the additional limitations of the method as claimed in claim 26, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 26.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Huang et al. (US 6,483,846 B1) discloses a system using COTS Ethernet cards and drivers for real time Ethernet (col. 4, lines 20-25).

Freeman et al. (US 7,079,176 B1) discloses digital interactive system for providing full interactivity with live programming events.

Anderson (US 5,714,997) discloses virtual reality television system.

Art Unit: 2623

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son P. Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-7295. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher S. Kelley can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Son P. Huynh

August 21, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'am2' with a small flourish underneath.